TELESCOPE-MESSENGER

Center for the Evangelical
United Brethren Heritage

United Theological Seminary Dayton, Ohio

Volume 32 No. 2 Summer 2025

WORDS FROM THE WISE

Conversation is the convergence, the drawing together unto common ground, of two or more persons where communion takes place and there is an interchange of life.

--Kenneth Pohly, 1965

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dates, etc.

We are pleased to announce that this year's Annual Meeting will coincide with EUB Heritage Day at the seminary! All are welcome to join the Center's Annual Meeting from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, September 23rd, either in person or via Webex. If you can come to campus, please plan to join us for lunch, worship featuring EUB hymns, and a tour of our EUB displays. Let us know if you are coming at eubcenter@united.edu or you may phone the seminary and leave a message at 937.529.2201.

In addition, please mark your calendars for the third "Heirs of Pietism in World Christianity" conference September 23-25, 2026. Once again, this event is scheduled to take place on the campus of United Theological Seminary (and virtually), as well as in conjunction with next year's Annual Meeting. The event will commemorate the 300-year anniversary of the births of Martin Boehm (1725) and William Otterbein (1726), co-founders of the United Brethren in Christ.

AND ALSO

I continue the editing work on papers from the previous Heirs of Pietism conference along with papers on Pietism that were delivered at the Wesleyan Historical Society at Baylor University in March. This work of the Center is helping to spread knowledge of Pietism and the EUB Heritage across the world. We plan to publish a second volume of papers from these conferences in 2026.

Please celebrate with us that the Center's fundraising campaign, with an initial goal of $2 million and led by

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REMEMBERING OUR EUB HERITAGE

Mary Ann Tomlinson

This item was presented in a slightly different form as a devotion for the EUB Heritage Council at their fall 2024 meeting.

I have carried around my Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Hymnal for lo these many years. Mom and I always sat together in the pew right next to the organ at Calvary EUB Church in Mattydale, New York. I remember I felt like a grownup when I reached out to take my hymnal out of the holder attached to the pew in front of me—and I sang my heart out. Meaningful memories like this one have inspired my interest in helping to preserve our beloved EUB Heritage. I loved my church, and it seems I am not the only one.

In an article entitled "The Tie That Binds" in the Telescope Messenger (TM) published in the Summer of 1995, Kenneth H. Pohly wrote: "One of the characteristics of the former EUB Church was the sense of fellowship that existed among its members. There was an unusual bond of friendship that drew and held together the people who pastored the churches, administered the conferences, and provided leadership for the EUB Church. It was a familiar sight at ecumenical gatherings to see EUB's gather in joyous, sometimes boisterous, groups in hotel lobbies or on street corners, renewing acquaintances and swapping stories." Dr. Pohly remembered being at one such gathering when a friend from another denomination observed, "You EUB's seems to really enjoy each other, don't you?"

Mary Ann and her mother

Mattydale Church
(with a later addition)

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HEIRS OF PIETISM III
CALL FOR PAPERS

Pietism has played an important role within World Christianity and has impacted many societies and cultures. In this third "Heirs of Pietism" conference, we will continue to uncover foundations, pillars, connections, and people that have given expression to Pietist faith and life. Papers are invited that examine figures, networks, and organizations that have promoted Pietist theology, practice, and religious values, as are proposals featuring analysis of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and class in relationship to Pietism. The conference will be convened (both in person and remotely via Webex) by The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage located at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, September 23-25, 2026. Please send paper proposal abstracts (250 words) to Dr. Wendy Deichmann at wjdeichmann@united.edu no later than March 15, 2026.

For further details about submitting papers please check our webpage at united.edu/heirs-of-pietism.

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4501 Denlinger Rd. Dayton, OH 45426

Eds. Wendy Deichmann
Rychie Breidenstein

Reach us at: tm.eds@united.edu

CENTER FOR EUB HERITAGE

Join us for EUB Heritage Day!

We warmly invite you and guests to the EUB Heritage Day, hosted by the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage. Join us for a chapel service with EUB hymns, followed by lunch and a visit to the Center's Historical Displays.

All are welcome--especially those influenced by the EUB Church or curious to learn more.

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, noon - 3pm United Theological Seminary 4501 Denlinger Road Dayton, OH 45426

Please RSVP to eubcenter@united.edu or 937-529-2201

REMEMBERING OUR EUB HERITAGE

(cont'd)

More importantly, this sense of belonging and of commitment to one another often became the mediating factor in conflict situations. Shortly after the 1946 church union, one annual conference faced a house divided along former denominational lines over a decision hanging on differences in former practice.

A respected "statesman" of the conference stood and said: "It is obvious that we face a rift in the family. Let us postpone our vote until our differences can be reconciled." The conference took his advice, and within a year the problem was resolved. "The impression made upon Kenneth Pohly, then a young pastor, was profound."

To preserve these ties that bound the EUB fellowship together, and to record and preserve the EUB heritage, the seeds of the Center for the EUB Heritage were planted in the late 197Os. We can learn much of this time, and the ensuing decades, from an article entitled "The Center," written by Elmer J. O'Brien and published in the TM in the winter of 1996. What follows, in italics, is an edited and abbreviated replication of that article:

The Center for the Study of EUB History was established in October 1979 under the leadership of President John R. Knecht and by action of the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary. An Advisory Board of twelve members was appointed to direct its affairs. . . .

By the late 197Os it had become apparent that aspects of the EUB heritage would be lost unless some organization or institution made a special effort to save it. The General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church was conducting an oral history project, interviewing bishops and other judicatory officials. It was believed that a similar project, focused on EUB history and church life, would make it possible to preserve significant aspects of the denominational heritage. The General Council on Ministries of the United Methodist Church, headquartered at Dayton, became interested in the project and agreed to fund it if qualified persons and other resources could be found to conduct the interviews and direct the project. The oral history project was conducted from 198O – 1982. . . . [I]t was discovered that many of the interviewees had material that they wished to deposit in an archive. . . . However, individuals were reluctant to deposit their materials in a distant archive. They also felt that their papers should be in the same depository as their oral history interview. In view of these circumstances and with an urgent concern that valuable documents not be lost, the Center adopted a policy of accepting and collecting archival materials important to the denominational tradition. . . .

[By the early 198Os] a significant collection of such resources had been acquired which richly complements the seminary library denominational collection of more than 7,OOO volumes of books, periodicals, pamphlets, microfilm and other media. [In addition, that

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Meeting at the Archives

Andy Wood

A YEAR TO REMEMBER: CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES AND TIMELINES IN EUB HISTORY

There are many important anniversaries in EUB history during 2025 and 2026. Join us for a yearlong celebration of the EUB heritage at United. We invite you to save the dates for our trio of events to mark this important year:

Heritage Day and the Fall EUB Heritage Council Meeting September 23, 2025—including a special EUB-themed Chapel, our own Rev. Dr. Andy Kinsey preaching, followed by lunch, and a tour of our special EUB displays.

The Ohio Methodist Historical Society (OMHS) Convocation and the Spring EUB Center Council meeting May 8-9, 2026. The theme for the OMHS meeting is "Exploring EUB History" Historical programming and tours to be announced soon.

Heirs of Pietism Conference and Fall Meeting of the EUB Heritage Center Council September 23-25, 2026. The Fall Meeting of the EUB Heritage Center Council will be on Tuesday the 23rd, followed by the opening of the conference.

* * *

WHAT ANNIVERSARIES? you might ask.

The two oldest mark 300 years. Beginning this fall, we will celebrate the birthdays of the founders of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (UB)—Martin Boehm in 2025 and Philip William Otterbein in 2026. Then there is the 225th anniversary of the founding of the UB in 2025. This year also marks the 150th anniversaries of: 1) the founding of nine UB conference Women's Missionary Associations; 2) Sarah Dickey's founding of Mount Herman Female Seminary; 3) The establishment of the Department of Young Women (UB). In addition are the 125th anniversaries of Susan Bauernfeind going to Japan as the first single woman appointed foreign missionary by Evangelical Association (2025), and Ella Niswonger's election as the first woman clergy delegate to (UB) General Conference (2026).

In addition, 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of United Theological Seminary's relocation to its current campus—the Trotwood campus that hosts our archival collections, EUB Center offices, and EUB displays. What a feast for the memory!!

SOME MORE NOTES: We are grateful to our continued donors of archival records. Every donation of materials to the archives is most welcome! Each donor, visitor, and researcher is sharing stories and love for the EUB heritage. It has been my privilege to represent and interpret the EUB heritage and collaborate with its heirs and students in various

(more on pg. 7)

REMEMBERING OUR EUB HERITAGE (cont'd)

decade saw the seminary sponsor two groundbreaking symposia.] *The first was on "Women in New Worlds: The EUB Tradition. . . . The second was the Jacob Albright Festival . . . commemorating the 175th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Evangelical Church.*

While the Center was successful in collecting denominational materials and sponsoring meetings for the exchange of ideas, the Advisory Board believed that more could be accomplished. In 1988 it proposed a new name, "The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage," to avoid the antiquarian perceptions suggested by "The Study of History" and to reorganize its program under three categories: saving the heritage, studying the heritage, and promoting the heritage.

[With this decision having been made, a] *major handicap in running an effective program was* [identified as] *the lack of a means of communication. Accordingly, a newsletter to be published semi-annually, the Telescope-Messenger, was launched with the first issue published in November 1990. Under the editorship of Dr. Calvin H. Reber, Jr. its purpose was to interpret the EUB tradition accurately, helping to preserve its integrity and appropriate the heritage in contemporary, ecumenical terms understandable within the United Methodist ethos. . . .*

Professor O'Brien concluded his article by sharing that the Center for the EUB Heritage was being recognized with growing respect for its work in preserving EUB history. He says that "An indication of the growing recognition which the Center received was demonstrated by the choice of Dayton as the site for the November 1996 meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC which was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the union which produced the EUB Church in 1946. By the end of the 20th century the Center had developed from a small local group conducting an oral history project to an organization with an international membership that hosted a major denominational gathering.

That story continues to this day. The Center still celebrates EUB heritage through national and international membership, scholarship, and conferences. Visitors from around the world seek out the resources we have collected. These are available by contacting our archivist, Dr. Andy Wood.

As one who currently serves on the Council for the Center, I am grateful for the vision, faithfulness, and good work that has gone into making this organization what it has been and continues to be.

AND ALSO (cont'd)

alumnus Ron Mowry, has almost reached the half-way mark! This campaign will ensure the Center's work long into the future. We are grateful to all who have contributed with financial gifts and prayers!

Last, but hardly least, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your interest in and support for the Center. The EUB heritage is a precious gift from our spiritual forbears that deserves to be remembered, studied, and celebrated, to the glory of God and for the edification of the whole Church.

--WD

A Year to Remember: Proverbs 16 and Martin Boehm's Birthday

Martin Boehm's story is foundational for understanding what makes the EUB heritage worth celebrating! This fall marks his 300th birthday (November 30, 1725). Boehm was a Bishop and cofounder with Philip William Otterbein (whose birthday is next year!) of the United Brethren in Christ (UB). September 25, 2025 is also the 225th anniversary of the founding of the UB Church.

Boehm was born to German-speaking Mennonite immigrants in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Martin married Eve Steiner in 1753 and they had eight children. Around 1758, Boehm was nominated to assist his local pastor and was eventually selected by lot to succeed the pastor or "bishop." He describes this as a difficult call to receive. While plowing his field, Boehm knelt repeatedly in desperate prayer for his "lost estate and agony of mind" (read Proverbs 16 to understand Boehm). Joy and assurance came.

Soon, the new pastor traveled to Virginia to learn what he could from "New Lights." That experience set his course of accepting and embracing others as fellow travelers with Christ.

As he grew in evangelical and ecumenical spirit he also claimed new practices. Following the Dunkers (German Baptists) and Moravians, Boehm began holding "great meetings" to which all were welcome. Eventually, he called together a great meeting for Pentecost 1767 at Isaac Long's barn near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There alongside the "Plain Dutch" Mennonites and Dunkers, there were "Church Dutch" Lutherans, as well as some German Reformed, including Otterbein, a prestigious Reformed clergyman. In Germany, such clergymen might have harmed Mennonite preacher/farmers like Boehm, but that is not what happened in that long ago meeting.

During the gathering Boehm preached first, and before he could sit down, Otterbein, recognizing the same vision and evangelical experience he held close, stood and embraced Boehm, saying in a loud voice "Wir sind brüder"— "We are brothers." That moment marked the beginning of the United Brethren movement, evangelical, ecumenical, and collaborative from its start. "Gentle and humble," Martin embodied its distinctive witness. We give thanks with a grateful heart!

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Meeting at the Archives (cont'd)

denominations—United Methodists, Global Methodists, Nazarenes, AMEs, Evangelical Church, etc.—and with EUB heirs at seven events since March 2025 from Texas to North Carolina to Michigan, and with EUB heritage guests from Oregon, Wisconsin, and Montana! The ecumenical EUB spirit is alive and well through this fellowship of the ministry of memory. Thanks be to God!

Finally, it has been my privilege to work with Rachel Hurley, and other members of the United team, to create the EUB Advocate, a quarterly email newsletter designed to keep folks up to date on news and events concerning the EUB heritage we all value. It is provided free of charge to anyone interested.

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Please Join Us

Yearly Membership $25-$499/Lifetime Membership $500* and above

Your membership helps the Center preserve the story and promote the study of the Christian traditions that formed The Evangelical United Brethren Church. Come join with like-minded people who are United Methodists, Global Methodists, former EUBs or EUB history enthusiasts, both lay and clergy, to take part in the ministry and mission of the Center.

Membership is an excellent way to stay in touch with the EUB historical community. It includes an email subscription to the TM and invitations to special events. Your membership dollars help to fund the mission of the Center and are tax-deductible as charitable donations for IRS purposes.

To join the Center and support its work, please fill out the form at the following link. Payment is easy, quick, and safe. Go to: https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=1148c9 or to our website united.edu/eub-heritage. There click on Membership & Donation.

*Installments of $100 per year over a 5 year period are available to become a Lifetime Member. Contact Mandy at aswood@united.edu or Mary Ann @ eubcenter_info_only@united.edu if you are interested in this.

If you prefer to join and pay using US mail make checks payable to
Center for EUB Heritage, 4501 Denlinger, Dayton, Ohio 45426 (add "membership" to note line).